

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

**PCT****NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION**

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

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in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing</b> (day/month/year) 03 June 1999 (03.06.99)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/US98/17570	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> RCA 88696
<b>International filing date</b> (day/month/year) 25 August 1998 (25.08.98)	<b>Priority date</b> (day/month/year) 28 August 1997 (28.08.97)
<b>Applicant</b> CROSBY, Sheila, Renee et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

10 March 1999 (10.03.99)

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☐

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

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2. The election ☒ was☐

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

<b>The International Bureau of WIPO</b> 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	<b>Authorized officer</b>  Maria Victoria CORTIELLO  Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 19 NOV 1999

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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

18

Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 88696	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US98/17570	International filing date (day/month/year) 25/08/1998	Priority date (day/month/year) 28/08/1997
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F3/023		
Applicant THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  10/03/1999	Date of completion of this report  15. 11. 99
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer  Alonso y Goicolea, L  Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7475 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/17570

**I. Basis of the report**

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

**Description, pages:**

1,3-10 as originally filed

2,2a as received on 29/09/1999 with letter of 27/09/1999

**Claims, No.:**

1-14 as received on 29/09/1999 with letter of 27/09/1999

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/17570

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**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-14
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-14
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-14
	No:	Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**VII. Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

**see separate sheet**

**VIII. Certain observations on the international application**

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/US98/17570

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: D1: EP-A-0 773 495 (IBM) 14 May 1997

1 The application is concerned with a system for navigating within a display in a multiwindow environment by moving a cursor from one icon to another (highlighting them) and using transfer icons to move the cursor from one display section to another.

2 Document D1 shows a system for positioning a cursor on a selected window, for instance by using a mouse and a chording or keystroke combination procedure.

A problem appears with the system of D1 when the hardware system to be used does not include a keyboard, a mouse, a trackball or other similar devices allowing an easy activation of the displacement of the cursor through the display sections.

3 Claim 1 of the invention is distinguished from the content of D1 in that the system of claim 1 displays a navigational symbol on a border of a selected display section and uses the available pointers (arrow keys) to move the cursor through the available icons in the corresponding direction and into an adjacent display section.

4 The prior art documents are not dealing with display sections in the sense of displaying a navigational symbol on the border of a selected section and moving a highlight in the defined direction.

**Re Item VII**

**Certain defects in the international application**

The independent claim(s) are not drafted in the two part form (Rule 6.3(b) PCT)

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/US98/17570

based on the closest prior art document. Reference signs in parenthesis are not inserted in all claims (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

**Re Item VIII**

**Certain observations on the international application**

- 1 The term "highlight" used in several claims is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of the claims unclear (Article 6 PCT).
- 2 Although claims 1, 7, 9, 13 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness. Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Hence, claims 1, 7, 9, 13 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

an issue when a mouse, trackball or other similar devices are used, as such devices allow the user to move the cursor freely across frame borders.

However, a problem arises when the system does not include or  
5 provide for such devices. For example, such a situation may arise in an arrangement wherein a standard television is used for browsing the Internet and the associated support system does not provide for a cursor which can move freely across the display screen. In that case, the user must use direction arrows and a selection button, or other  
10 similar devices, on a remote control device in order to select icons or symbols in a frame and move from frame to frame.

One solution to this problem is to provide a keyboard wherein a particular keystroke combination moves the cursor between frames, i.e. CTRL+arrow key. However, this requires the user to either  
15 memorize a number of keystroke combinations, which the user may find difficult to remember, or keep referring to instruction notes during operation. Further, this solution cannot be used if the user must rely entirely on a remote control device.

Another solution is to force the user to scroll through an entire  
20 frame, i.e. to the top or bottom edges of the frame, in order to move to the next frame. However, from a user's point of view, having to scroll through an entire frame can quickly become tedious and unacceptable. In addition, the contents of a frame may be lengthy and the user may run out of patience from reaching the end of the  
25 frame.

### SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Therefore, what is needed is a user interface which allows a user to quickly and easily navigate within and between a plurality of  
30 sections on a single display screen, using a remote control device.

Redline by PAT 3/1

11  
CLAIMS

1. A system for navigating within a display having one or more display sections, comprising:

5        means for selecting a section of said display; and  
      control means, in response to said selection, for displaying a navigational symbol on a border of said selected section, said symbol corresponding to a direction in which a highlight may be moved.

10        2. The system of claim 1 wherein said control means, in response to a selection of said symbol on said border, moves said highlight in said corresponding direction.

15        3. The system of claim 1 wherein said symbol indicates availability of an adjacent section in said corresponding direction.

      4. The system of claim 1 wherein said different sections of the display represent different frames.

20        5. The system of claim 1 wherein said different sections of the display represent different web pages.

25        6. The system of claim 3 wherein said control means moves said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said selected section if another icon exists in said selected section in said corresponding direction.



7. The system of claim 3 wherein said control means moves said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said adjacent section if no other icon exists in said selected section in said  
5 corresponding direction.

8. A system for navigating within a display having one or more display sections, comprising:

a user control for selecting a first icon in a selected section of  
10 said screen, said user control including a set of directional keys for moving to another icon selection; and

a controller for determining, in response to an entry of one of said directional keys, whether there is a visible icon in said selected section in the direction corresponding to said entered key; and

15 said controller, in response to said determination, moves said highlight to said visible icon if said visible icon is present and moves said highlight to a navigational control, if said visible icon is not present.

20 9. The system of claim 8 wherein said controller causes said navigational control to be displayed, if an adjacent section is available in a direction indicated by said navigational control.

25 10. A method for navigating within a display having one or more display sections, comprising the steps of:

selecting a section of said display;

displaying, in response to said selection, a navigational symbol on a border of said selected section, said symbol corresponding to a navigable direction of a highlight.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said method further comprising:

moving said highlight, in response to a selection of said symbol on said border, in said corresponding direction.

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12. The method of claim 10 wherein said symbol indicates an availability of an adjacent section in said corresponding direction.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said moving step further  
10 comprising moving said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said selected section if another icon exists in said selected section in said corresponding direction.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said moving step further  
15 comprising moving said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said adjacent section if no other icon exists in said selected section in said corresponding direction.

15. A method for navigating within a display having one or  
20 more display sections, comprising:

selecting a first icon in a selected section of said display via a user control, said user control including a set of directional keys for moving to another icon selection; and

determining, in response to an entry of one of said directional  
25 keys, whether there is a visible icon in said selected section in the direction corresponding to said entered key; and

moving said highlight, in response to said determination, to said visible icon if said visible icon is present and moving said highlight to a navigational control, if said visible icon is not present.

30

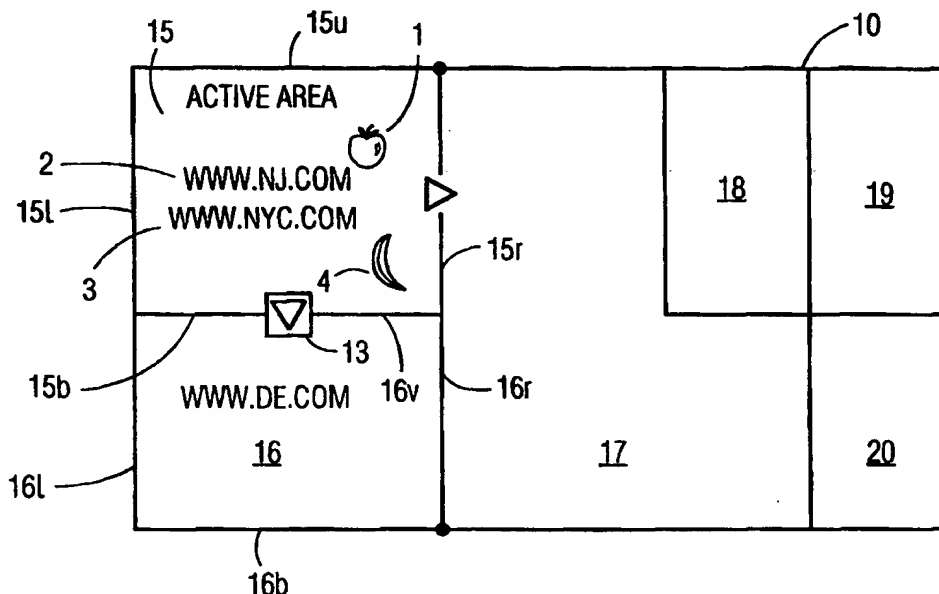
16. The method of claim 15 wherein said navigational control is only displayed, if an adjacent section is available in a direction indicated by said navigational control.



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>G06F 3/023</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/10798</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 4 March 1999 (04.03.99)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/17570 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 25 August 1998 (25.08.98) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/056,691 28 August 1997 (28.08.97) US <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. [US/US]; 10330 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46290-1024 (US). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> CROSBY, Sheila, Renee [US/US]; 325 Hampton Court, Crystal Lake, IL 60012 (US). BARLOW, Steven, Todd [US/US]; 311 Trappers Sack Road, Cary, NC 27513 (US). STRONG, Robert, John [GB/US]; 200 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington, IL 60004 (US). <b>(74) Agents:</b> TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.; GE & RCA Licensing Management Operation, Inc., P.O. Box 5312, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

**(54) Title:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NAVIGATING WITHIN A DISPLAY HAVING DIFFERENT DISPLAY SECTIONS

**(57) Abstract**

A system and a method for navigating within a display having one or more display sections are disclosed. A section from the one or more display sections is selected. In response to the selection, a navigational symbol is displayed on a border of the selected section, the symbol corresponding to a direction in which a highlight may be moved. In one embodiment, the highlight is moved in the corresponding direction in response to the selection of the symbol. In another embodiment, the symbol indicates an availability of an adjacent section in the corresponding direction.

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# SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NAVIGATING WITHIN A DISPLAY HAVING DIFFERENT DISPLAY SECTIONS

## Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a system and method of  
5 providing a user interface for allowing a computer user to navigate  
through a plurality of electronic information sources, and in particular  
to a user interface for navigating through information sources in an  
electronic on-line environment, such as the Internet, using a display  
comprising a plurality of separate sections.

## 10 Background

User interface for allowing a user to navigate through electronic  
information sources and on-line services are known in the art, i.e.  
web browsers for navigating through the Internet. In such a user  
interface, a user typically manipulates the position of a cursor on a  
15 display screen and selects icons or symbols displayed thereon to  
manipulate the displayed data or link to another information source,  
or web page.

To provide additional flexibility and ease for the user, a user  
interface may divide a single display into a plurality of independent  
20 frames wherein each frame is associated with a different information  
source. For Internet applications, each frame may be associated with  
a different data source. As such, a user may change the contents of a  
particular frame and link to other data sources from that frame  
independently of the other frames. Similarly, each section of a  
25 display or screen may correspond to a different web page, displaying  
different information from different web sites.

From a user interface perspective, the use of sections, for  
example, frames can be problematic. The user must be able to move  
the cursor from frame to frame. However, there is no embedded  
30 control allowing the cursor to jump from frame to frame. This is not

an issue when a mouse, trackball or other similar devices are used, as such devices allow the user to move the cursor freely across frame borders.

However, a problem arises when the system does not include or provide for such devices. For example, such a situation may arise in an arrangement wherein a standard television is used for browsing the Internet and the associated support system does not provide for a cursor which can move freely across the display screen. In that case, the user must use direction arrows and a selection button, or other similar devices, on a remote control device in order to select icons or symbols in a frame and move from frame to frame.

One solution to this problem is to provide a keyboard wherein a particular keystroke combination moves the cursor between frames, i.e. CTRL+arrow key. However, this requires the user to either memorize a number of keystroke combinations, which the user may find difficult to remember, or keep referring to instruction notes during operation. Further, this solution cannot be used if the user must rely entirely on a remote control device.

Another solution is to force the user to scroll through an entire frame, i.e. to the top or bottom edges of the frame, in order to move to the next frame. However, from a user's point of view, having to scroll through an entire frame can quickly become tedious and unacceptable. In addition, the contents of a frame may be lengthy and the user may run out of patience from reaching the end of the frame.

## SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Therefore, what is needed is a user interface which allows a user to quickly and easily navigate within and between a plurality of sections on a single display screen, using a remote control device.

The present invention involves a user interface that allows a user to quickly and easily navigate within and between a plurality of sections or frames on a single display screen. In one embodiment, a user selects a highlighted icon and/or button to manipulate the data in a particular frame or one of a plurality of control arrows shown on the borders between the frames to move from one frame to another. A user controls the position of the highlight by pressing one of a plurality of direction buttons on a remote control device and selects an icon or a control arrow by pressing a selection button on the remote control device.

Therefore, a system and a method for navigating within a display having one or more display sections are disclosed, the system comprising:

means for selecting a section of said display; and  
control means, in response to said selection, for displaying a navigational symbol on a border of said selected section, said symbol corresponding to a direction in which a highlight may be moved.

In one embodiment of the invention, the control means, in response to a selection of said symbol on said border, moves said highlight in said corresponding direction. In another embodiment, said symbol indicates an availability of an adjacent section in said corresponding direction.

The present invention may advantageously be used in arrangements wherein a standard home television is connected to the Internet using appropriate support equipment but the system does not include or provide for a cursor which can freely move across the frames on the display screen.



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

5 Figs. 1A - 1C are representations of a display screen having a plurality of sections, with a first section as being active.

Fig. 2 shows a display screen having a second area as being active.

Fig. 3 is a simplified block diagram of an apparatus for  
10 implementing the present user interface;

Figs. 4-8 are flow chart diagrams showing the steps taken by the present user interface; and

Fig. 9 is a top plan view of a remote control device suitable for use with the present user interface.

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### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Referring to Figs. 1A - 1C, and Fig. 2, there are shown representations of display screen 10 divided into a plurality of sections or frames 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Such a display is  
20 suitable for presenting information from a plurality of different information sources at one time. In Internet applications, each frame may be associated with different information and may be manipulated independently of the other frames. This type of display may be provided on a computer monitor or a standard television  
25 monitor using appropriate support equipment and software, including, but not limited to the N/C 100 system provided by Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana.

A simplified block diagram of a suitable apparatus for providing a display in accordance with the present invention is shown in Fig. 3.  
30 Apparatus for electronically connecting a display terminal to various

electronic information sources are known in the art and will not be discussed in detail here. As shown in Fig. 3, the suitable apparatus 20 comprises a controller, CPU 26, which receives the commands from a user and performs the steps necessary to provide a display on television or computer display 34, as shown in Figs. 4-8, to be discussed below. Typically, user input is provided through a user entry device such as a remote control or keyboard 22 which sends a signal to IR signal decoder 24 operatively connected to CPU 26. CPU 26 is also connected to a network computer or other on line data sources through communications interface unit 29 to send and receive data therethrough. CPU 26 also accesses ROM 28 which stores the data for generating the display and highlighting graphic elements and RAM 32 which stores HTML page data received through interface unit 29. Upon receiving a user command, CPU 26 accesses the data in ROM 28 and RAM 32, and provides an output to video signal processor 30 which generates signals to control display 34. In a system which uses a standard television monitor, tuner 25 and IF processor 27 are also connected to video signal processor 30 to provide a baseband video signal representing the video portion of a tuned television signal.

In the present arrangement wherein a remote control device 22 is used to select the icons or the symbols on the display, highlighting methods are used to indicate to the user which icon or symbol is currently available for selection. An icon or a symbol may be highlighted by changing the appearance of the icon or the symbol, for example by changing the size and/or color of the icon or symbol. In our exemplary embodiment, as shown in Fig. 1A, for example, an icon 3 is shown as being highlighted by having a background box surrounding it. The highlighting may be thought of as a background cursor which can only move to certain locations on the display and changes the appearance of the icon or symbol over which it is placed.

Upon highlighting the desired icon or symbol, the user can select the highlighted icon or symbol using the appropriate select button on the remote control device in order to change the display in some manner. Thus, the present invention allows a user to easily and quickly navigate within and between the various frames by moving the position of a highlight and selecting the highlighted icon or symbol using a remote control device.

A suitable user entry or a remote control device 5 is shown in Fig. 9. As shown in Fig. 9, remote control device 5 includes direction buttons 6, 7, 8, 9, which correspond to up, down, left and right directions, respectively, for moving the position of the highlight. For example, pressing up button 6 will cause the icon or symbol nearest and above the currently highlighted icon or symbol to become highlighted indicating that it is now available for selection. Remote control device 5 also includes OK button 6a for selecting the highlighted icon or symbol. Suitable remote control devices include, but are not limited to, CRK93H1 manufactured by Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana and adapted for use with the N/C 100 system. Therefore, using remote control device 5 in the manner described above, a user can easily and quickly move the highlighting within a frame and select the highlighted icons as desired thereby easily navigating within a particular frame.

For example, as shown in Fig. 1A, an icon 3 is initially highlighted as shown by a background box surrounding the icon. An icon may be a symbol or text string which has a related HTML link or the like. Since the highlighted icon 3 is in section 15, section 15 is the active area in which a user can move from one icon to another using the direction buttons 6, 7, 8, 9 on the user entry control 5. For example, if icon 3 is currently being highlighted as shown in Fig. 1A,

7

and a user pushes the down button 7 on the remote control, icon 4 will become highlighted as shown in Fig. 1B.

Navigation between frames is now discussed. In Figs. 1A and 1B, frame 15 is active (i.e., selected) and the remaining frames are inactive, as discussed above. That is, the user can manipulate the information provided to frame 15 by using remote control device 5 to select the icons within frame 15. The user may select which frame is active using remote control device 5 to highlight and select navigation controls in the form of, for example, control arrow symbols 12 and 13 shown in the frame borders 15r and 15b as described further below.

In the present user interface, navigation controls are embedded into borders surrounding an active frame such that a user can navigate between the frames using arrow buttons 6-9 and "OK" button 6a on remote control device 5. For example, directional symbols 12 and 13 appear as arrows in the borders 15r and 15b between frames 15 and 17 and 15 and 16, respectively, and may be highlighted and selected in the same manner as the icons. In other words, the highlight is moved between the icons and the arrows using direction buttons 6-9 and the icons and arrows may be selected using OK button 6a.

Highlighting and selecting a control arrow (e.g., 12 or 13) on the border will also cause the user interface to scroll the contents of the frame in the direction of the arrow. However, if the control arrow is selected after the frame contents have reached the edge of the respective border in the direction of the arrow, the user interface will switch the highlight to the nearest icon or symbol inside the next frame to which the arrow is pointing. In this manner, the adjacent frame becomes active. For example, in Fig. 1A, when arrow 12 is highlighted after the contents of frame 15 have been scrolled to the rightmost edge and the user presses OK button 6a, frame 17 becomes

active and frame 15 becomes inactive. Similarly, when arrow 13 is highlighted after the contents of frame 15 have been scrolled to the bottom edge and OK button 6a is pressed, frame 16 becomes active and frame 15 becomes inactive as shown in Fig. 2. Once a new frame  
5 16 becomes active, arrows 13a and 14a appear on the borders around the newly activated frame 16 to allow the user to select and activate frames adjacent the newly activated frame 16 as desired.

The steps for navigating between the frames and the links within the frames are illustrated in Figs. 4-8. The steps indicated in  
10 Figs. 4-8 may be implemented using a software routine that, when executed by CPU 26 in Fig. 3, controls the system shown in Fig. 3 to provide the described features. As shown in Fig. 4, the user interface initially draws the frames and shows the control arrows which may be selected. First, the HTML page is loaded in step 40. If the HTML  
15 page uses frames and the frames use borders as indicated in steps 42 and 44, the user interface select or gives focus to the frame containing the default link in step 46 then draws the frame borders and frame controls. As indicated in steps 46-50, 52-56, 58-62, and 64-68, the user interface draws a control arrow on the borders which are  
20 adjacent to another frame. For example, in Fig. 1, control arrows 12 and 13 are drawn on the right and bottom border portions 15r and 15b, respectively. After drawing the frame borders and frame controls, the user interface waits for and responds to user input as indicated in step 70.

25 Figs. 5-8, indicate the steps taken when the user presses the up, down, right and down direction buttons 6-9, respectively, on remote control device 5. As the steps in each of Figs. 5-8 are similar, only Fig. 6 will be discussed in detail. However, it is to be understood that the discussion below is applicable to the remaining figures.

As discussed above, Fig. 1A shows area 15 has been selected to be an active area. When a user then presses down button 7 in step 90 of Fig. 6, the user interface first decides whether the highlight is on a link or on a control arrow as indicated in step 92. If the highlight is on a link, such as icon 3 as shown in Fig. 1A, the user interface must decide whether there is a visible link below the active link 3 inside the active frame 15 as indicated in step 94. If there is a visible link 4, the user interface moves the focus to the link below the active link and highlights that link 4 in step 96, as shown in Fig. 1B. If there is no visible link, the user interface moves the highlight to the control arrow 13 shown in the bottom border 15b and goes back to step 98 to await further user input, as shown in Fig. 1C.

If the highlight is on a control arrow as indicated in step 92, the user interface decides in step 92 whether the frame contents continue beyond the bottom border 15b of the frame 15. If the contents continue but are currently hidden from view of a user, the user interface scrolls the frame to display the contents below the bottom border 15b as indicated in step 109 and then waits for further user input when the down button 7 is released. If the frame contents do not continue, the user interface moves the highlight to the next default, i.e. closest, icon or symbol (link) in frame 16 below the bottom border as indicated in step 102 and as shown in Fig. 2. In this manner, the user can move to a new frame when the contents of frame 15 have been scrolled to an edge. As described above, a user can easily and quickly navigate within and between the frames using the direction and selection buttons on remote control device 5. It is to be understood that the present method may be implemented using a number of techniques and/or programming languages known to one of ordinary skill in the art, including, but not limited to visual BASIC, C++ and JAVA.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that although the invention has been described in terms of a specific example, modifications and changes may be made to the disclosed embodiment without departing from the essence of the invention. Therefore, it is  
5 to be understood that the present invention is intended to cover all modifications which naturally flow from the foregoing example.

11  
CLAIMS

1. A system for navigating within a display having one or more display sections, comprising:

5 means for selecting a section of said display; and  
control means, in response to said selection, for displaying a navigational symbol on a border of said selected section, said symbol corresponding to a direction in which a highlight may be moved.

10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said control means, in response to a selection of said symbol on said border, moves said highlight in said corresponding direction.

15 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said symbol indicates availability of an adjacent section in said corresponding direction.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said different sections of the display represent different frames.

20 5. The system of claim 1 wherein said different sections of the display represent different web pages.

25 6. The system of claim 3 wherein said control means moves said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said selected section if another icon exists in said selected section in said corresponding direction.



7. The system of claim 3 wherein said control means moves said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said adjacent section if no other icon exists in said selected section in said  
5 corresponding direction.

8. A system for navigating within a display having one or more display sections, comprising:

a user control for selecting a first icon in a selected section of  
10 said screen, said user control including a set of directional keys for moving to another icon selection; and

a controller for determining, in response to an entry of one of said directional keys, whether there is a visible icon in said selected section in the direction corresponding to said entered key; and

15 said controller, in response to said determination, moves said highlight to said visible icon if said visible icon is present and moves said highlight to a navigational control, if said visible icon is not present.

20 9. The system of claim 8 wherein said controller causes said navigational control to be displayed, if an adjacent section is available in a direction indicated by said navigational control.

10. A method for navigating within a display having one or  
25 more display sections, comprising the steps of:

selecting a section of said display;

displaying, in response to said selection, a navigational symbol on a border of said selected section, said symbol corresponding to a navigable direction of a highlight.

13

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said method further comprising:

moving said highlight, in response to a selection of said symbol on said border, in said corresponding direction.

5

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said symbol indicates an availability of an adjacent section in said corresponding direction.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said moving step further comprising moving said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said selected section if another icon exists in said selected section in said corresponding direction.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said moving step further comprising moving said highlight in said corresponding direction to another icon in said adjacent section if no other icon exists in said selected section in said corresponding direction.

15. A method for navigating within a display having one or more display sections, comprising:

selecting a first icon in a selected section of said display via a user control, said user control including a set of directional keys for moving to another icon selection; and

determining, in response to an entry of one of said directional keys, whether there is a visible icon in said selected section in the direction corresponding to said entered key; and

moving said highlight, in response to said determination, to said visible icon if said visible icon is present and moving said highlight to a navigational control, if said visible icon is not present.

30

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said navigational control is only displayed, if an adjacent section is available in a direction indicated by said navigational control.

1/9

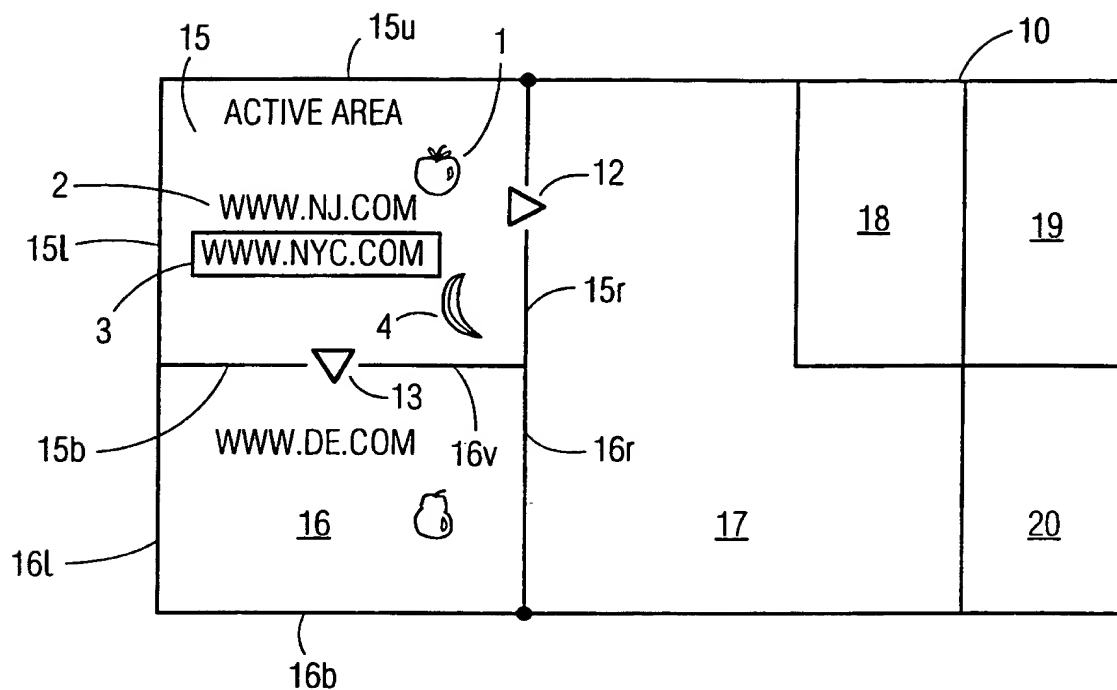
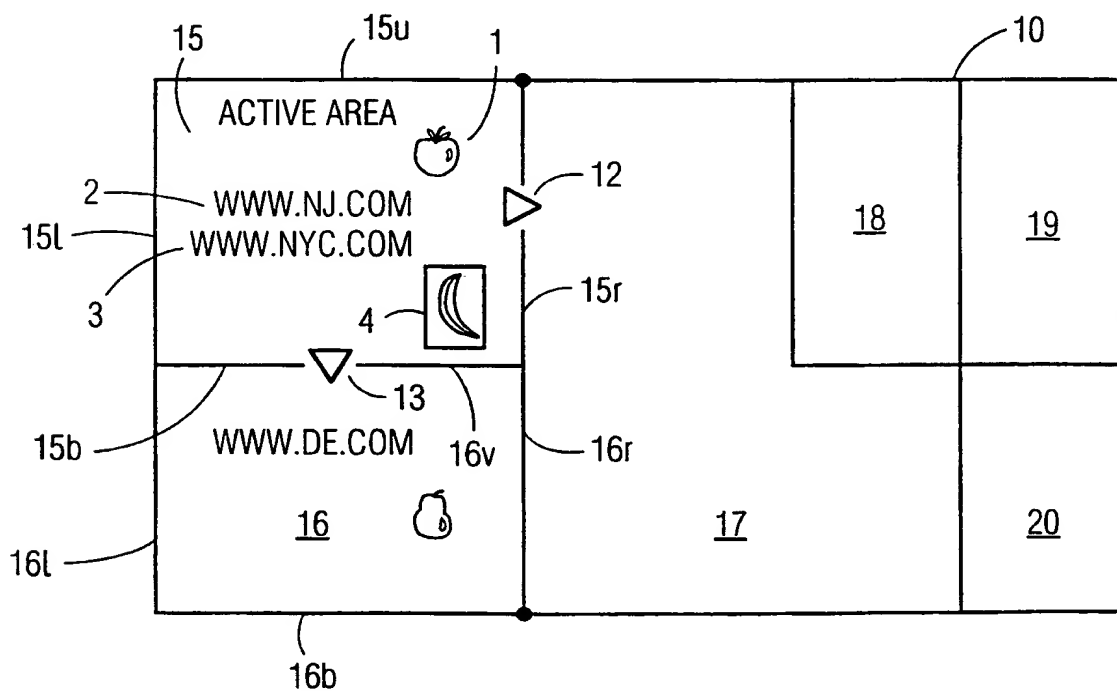


FIG. 1A



**FIG. 1B**

2/9

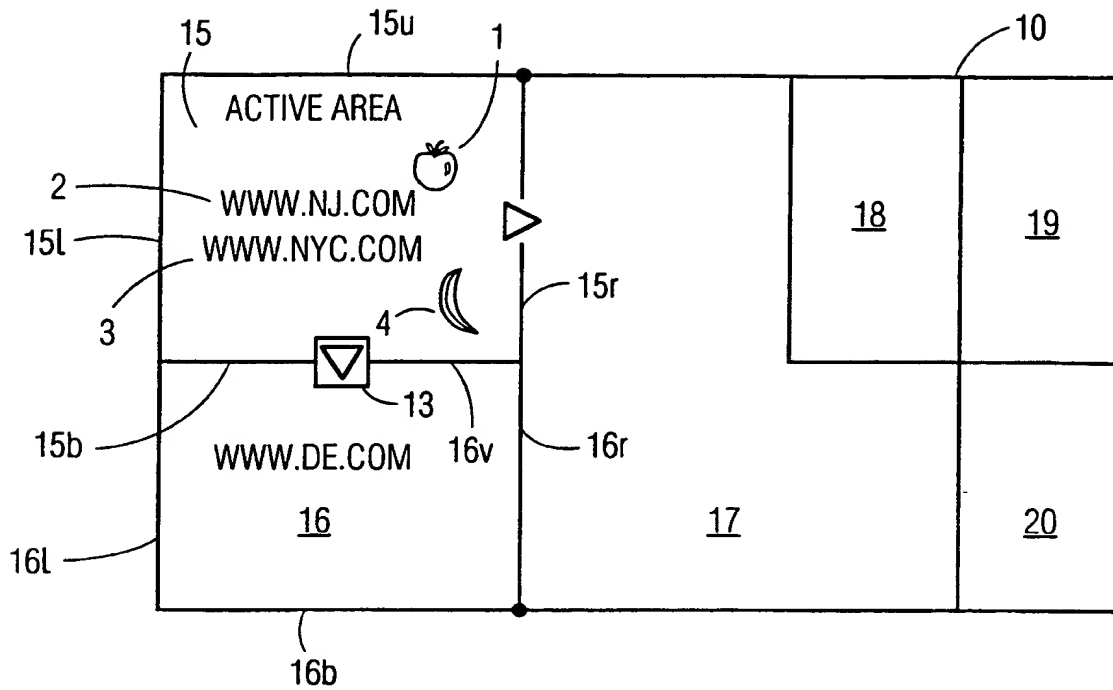


FIG. 1C

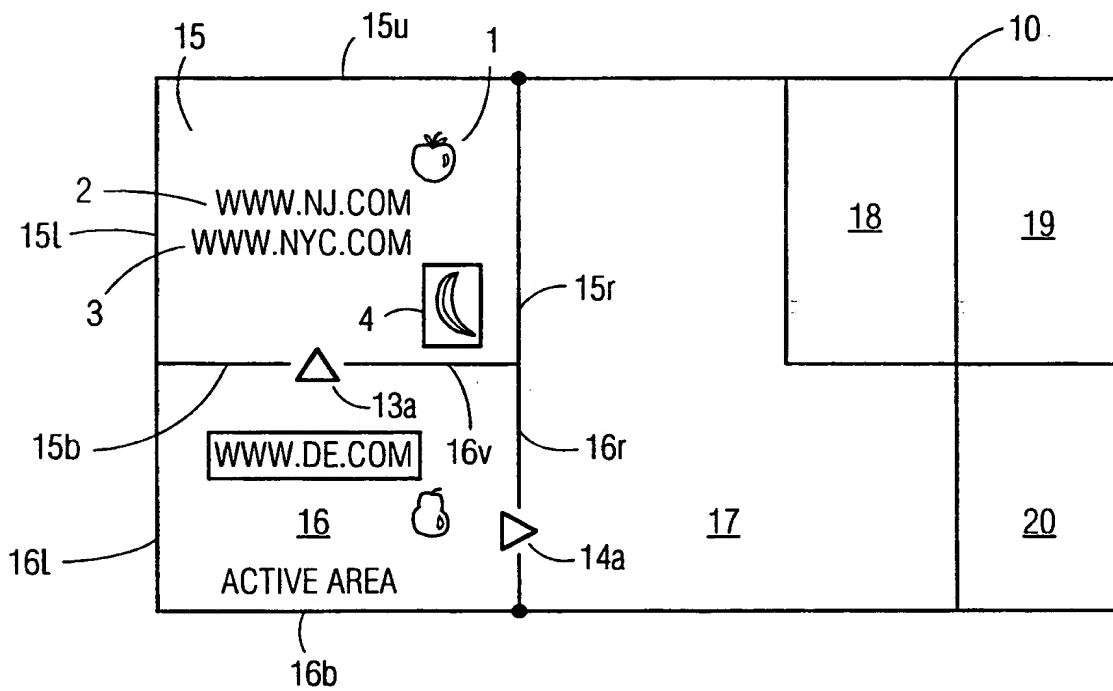


FIG. 2

3/9

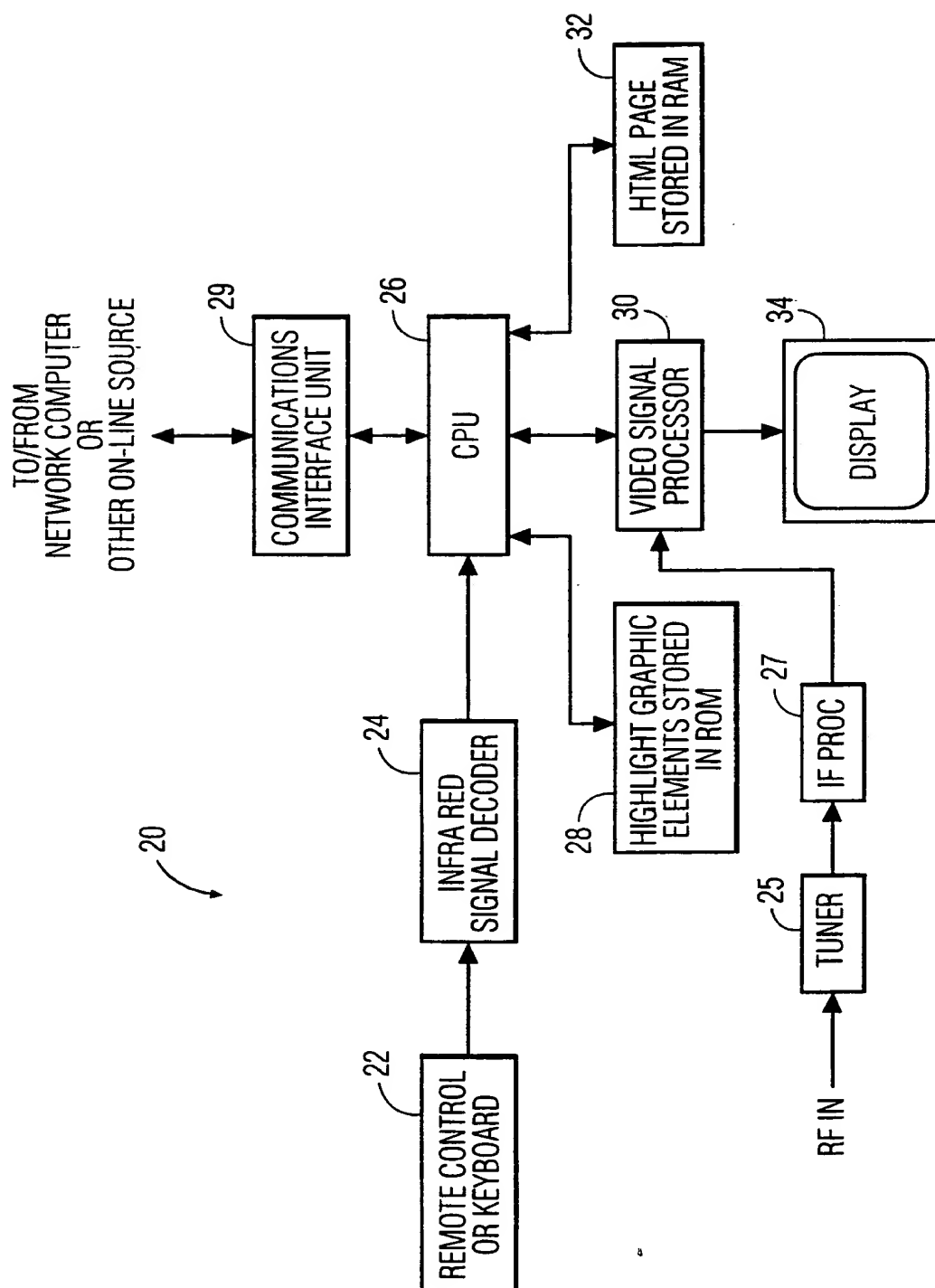
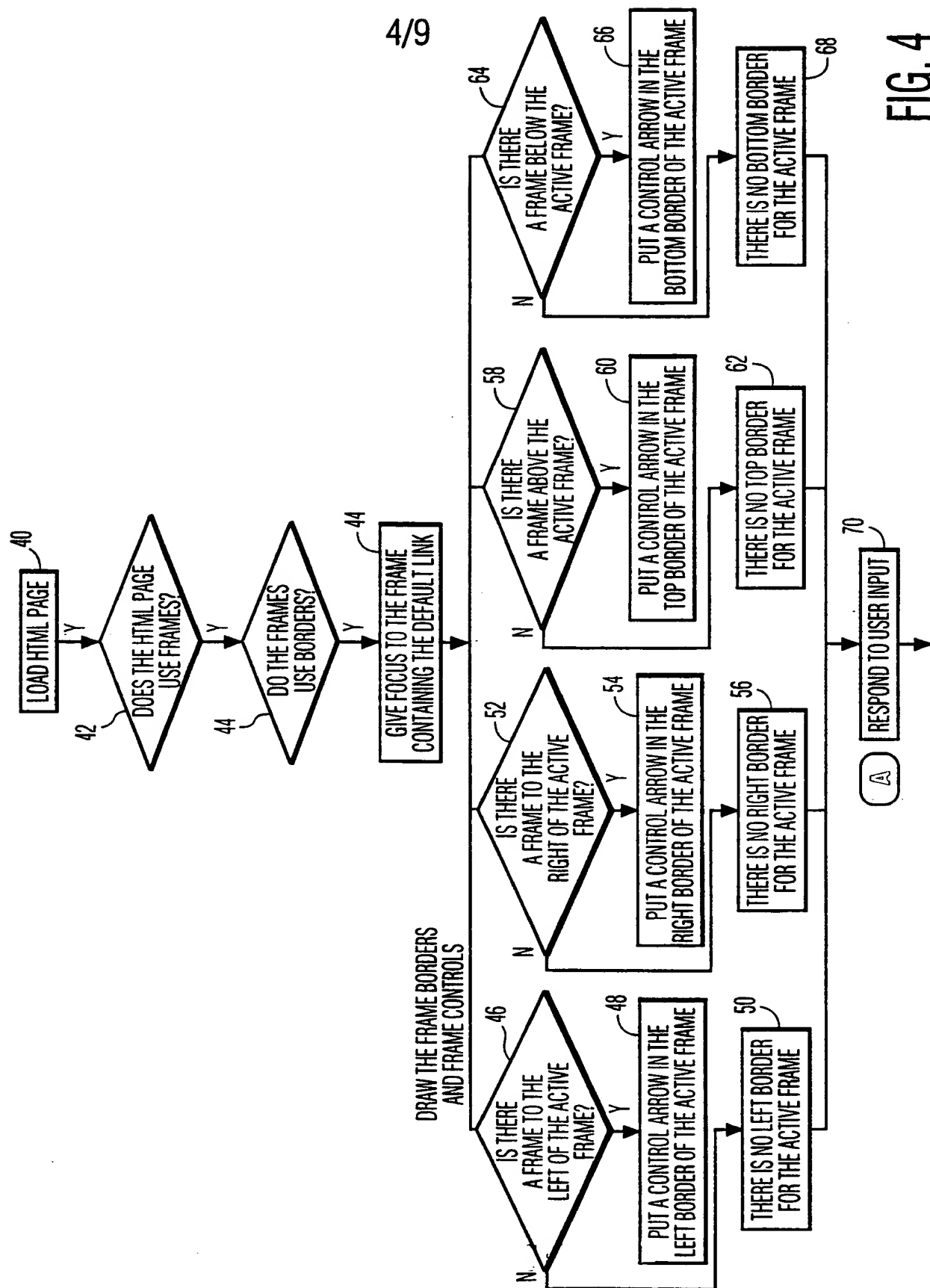


FIG. 3



5/9

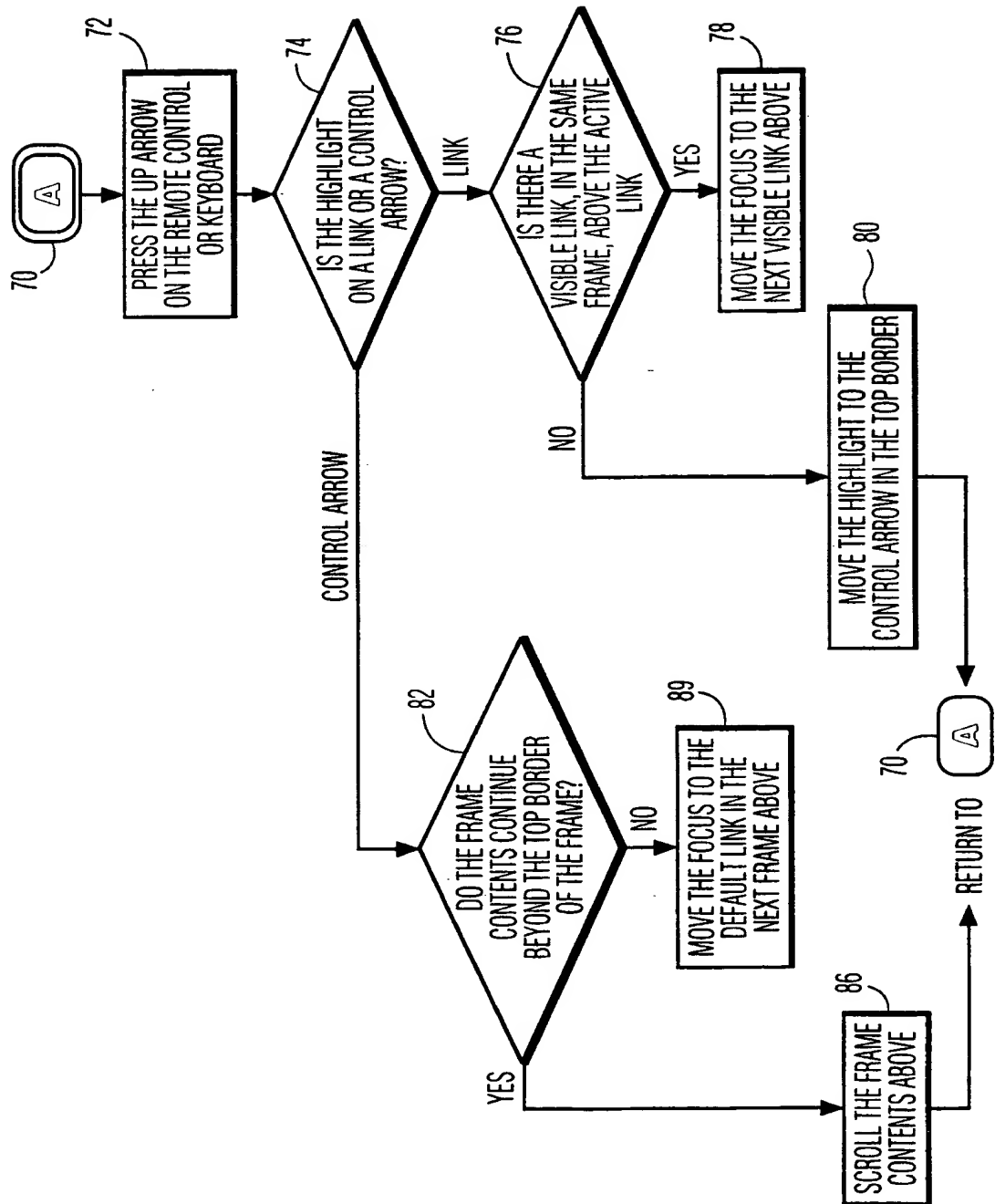


FIG. 5



6/9

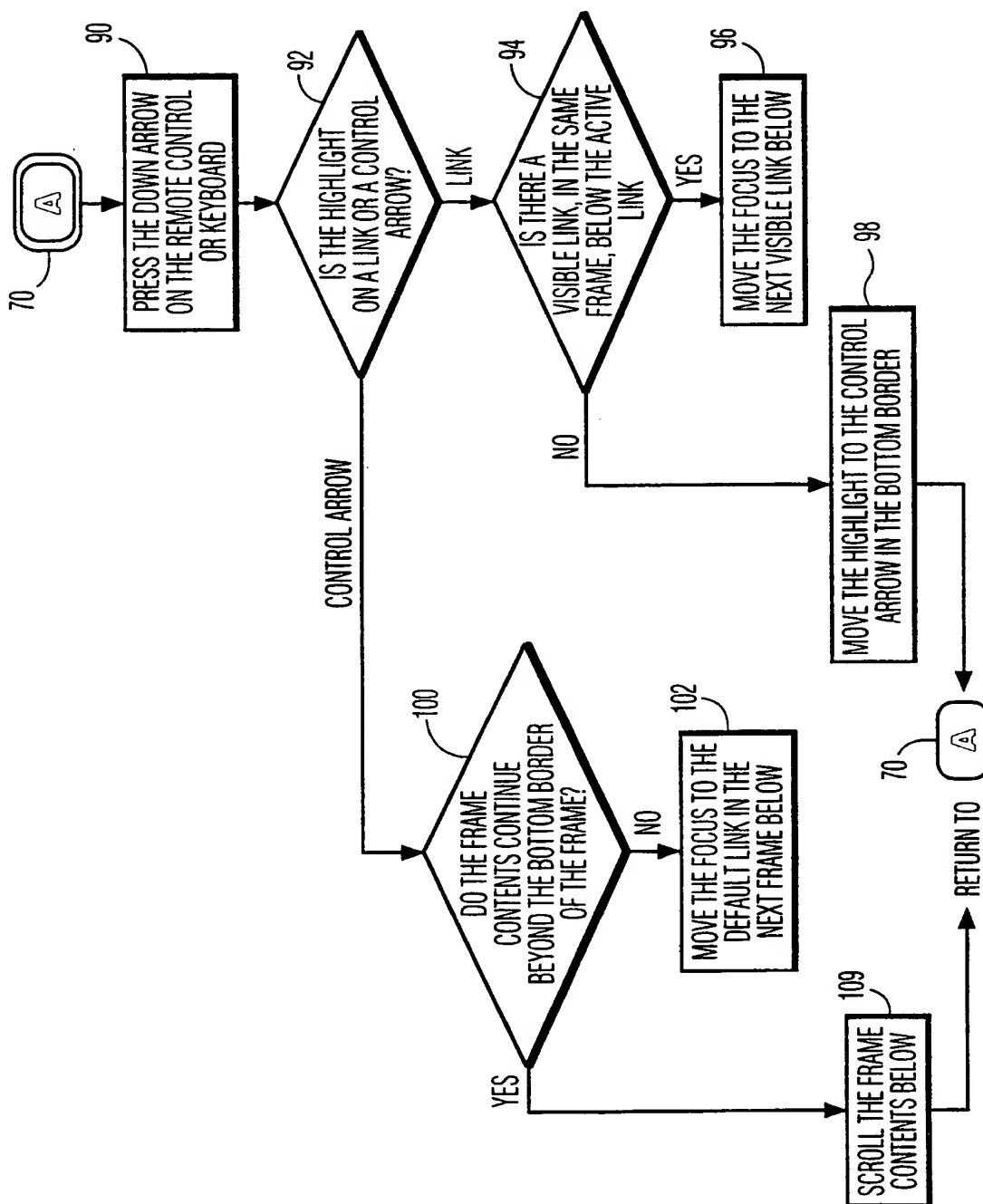


FIG. 6

7/9

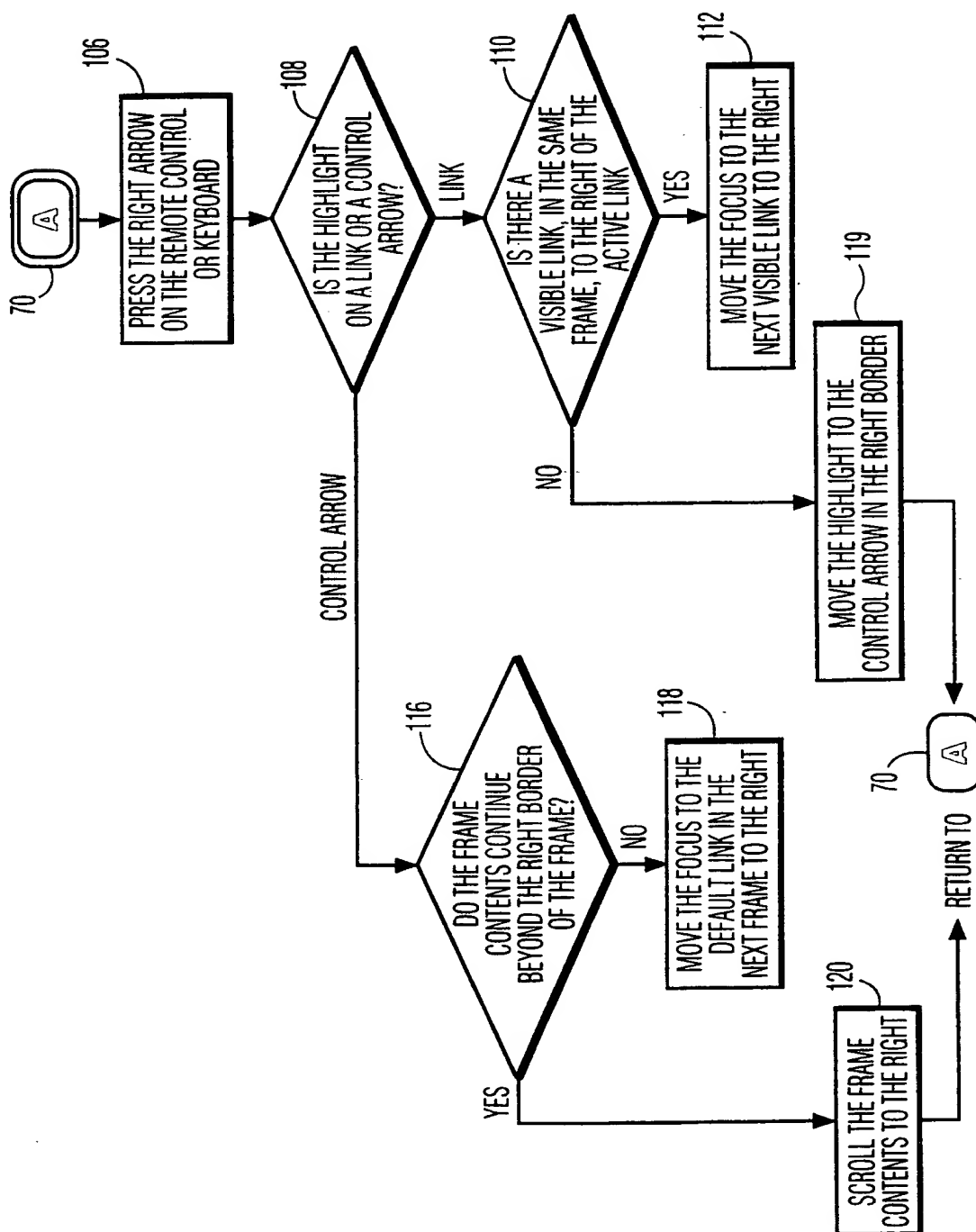


FIG. 7

8/9

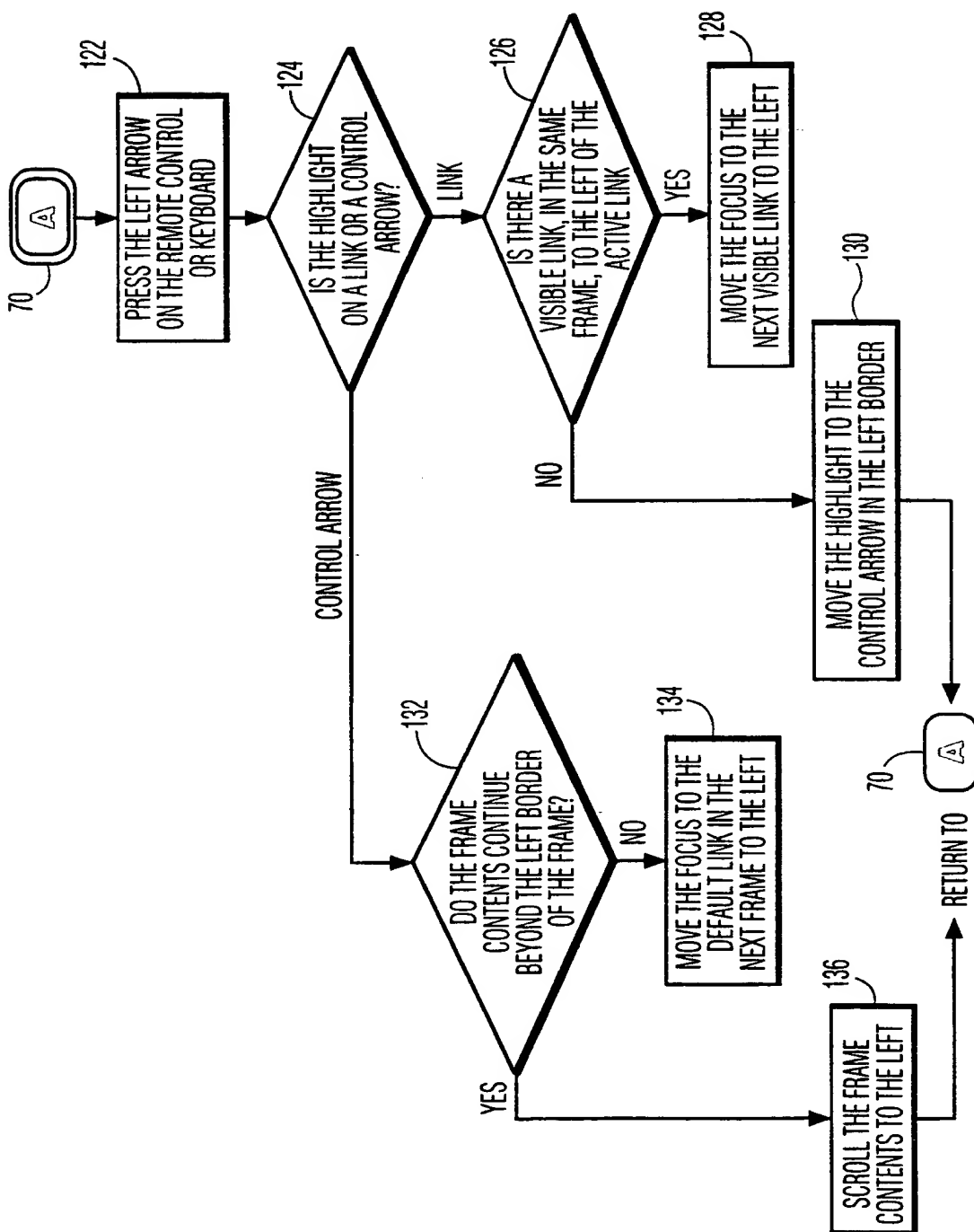


FIG. 8

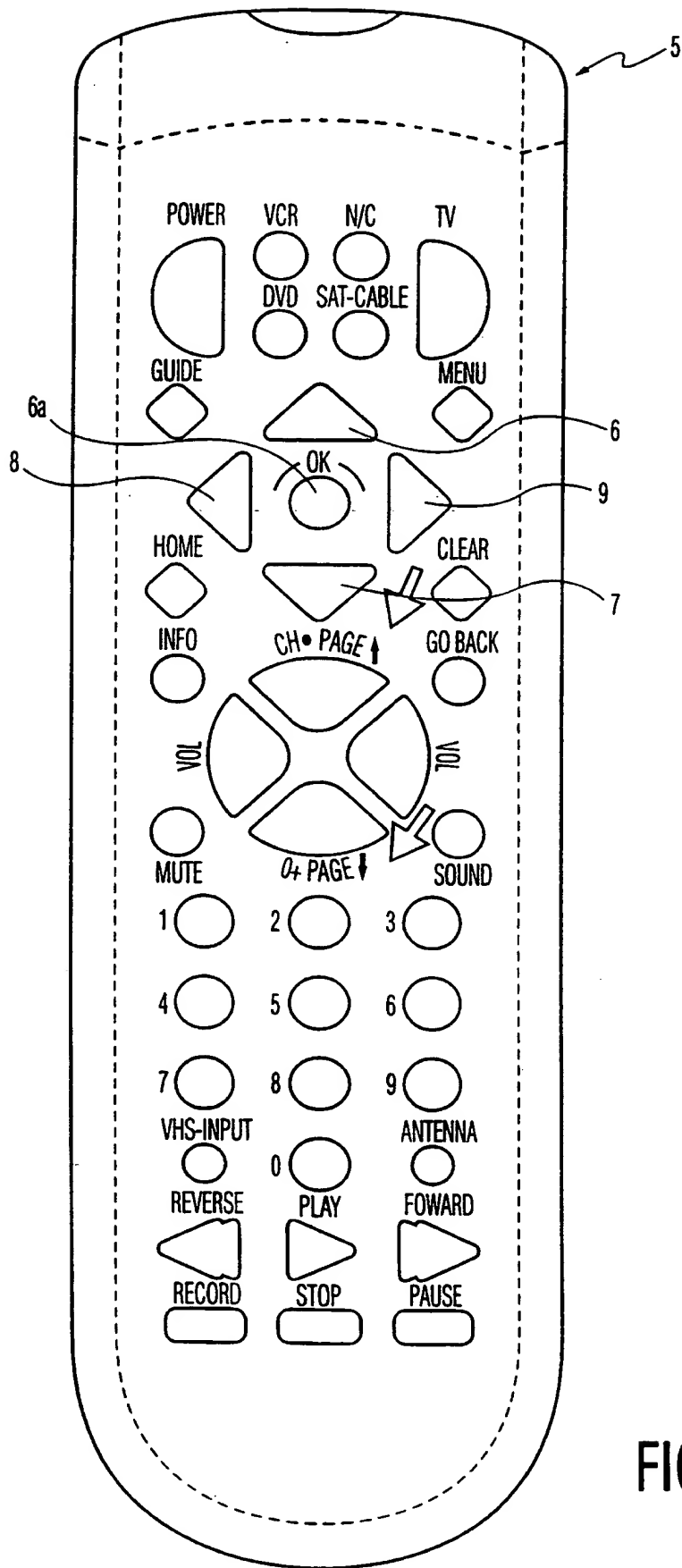


FIG. 9

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>RCA 88696</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/US 98/ 17570</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>25/08/1998</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>28/08/1997</b>
Applicant <b>THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. et al.</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable**(see Box I).

2. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking**(see Box II).

3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing** and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing

☐ filed with the international application.

☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,

☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.

☐ Transcribed by this Authority

4. With regard to the **title**, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is:

Figure No. 1C ☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ None of the figures.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 98/17570

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 G06F3/023

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 94 12927 A (MICROSOFT CORP) 9 June 1994	1,2,10, 11
A	see abstract see page 3, line 7 - page 8, line 34 see figures 1,3A-4E	3-8, 12-16
Y	EP 0 626 635 A (FIRSTPERSON INC) 30 November 1994	1,2,10, 11
A	see abstract see column 17, line 13-48 see figures 2B-7	3-8, 12-16
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 December 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/01/1999

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Baldan, M

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 98/17570

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 95 01058 A (APPLE COMPUTER)  5 January 1995  see page 60, line 3 - page 63, line 8  see figures 33-35</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	<p>1,2,10,  11</p>
A	<p>EP 0 773 495 A (IBM) 14 May 1997  see column 2, line 22 - column 4, line 40  see figures 1,2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p>1,2,10,  11</p>

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/17570

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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EP 0773495 A	14-05-1997	US 5737555 A CN 1159625 A JP 9167075 A	07-04-1998 17-09-1997 24-06-1997